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LIVING BY STARLIGHT an Astrological Newsletter

December 2012 – January 2013

AUTHOR'S NOTES:

Saturn sextiles Pluto for the first of three passes this month. It will complete again March 7th and September 20th 2013. This is a powerful and positive aspect that is also one of mutual receptivity (each planet is in the sign that rules the other planet), which adds to its usefulness and our ability to use both of these planets in tandem. This is an opportunity to work with these two most forceful of energies and to find common ground in many issues in life. This transit will affect the society and the individual. How it affects you will personally have to do with where it falls in your chart. In our society there is a chance now to find common goals and use the strength of the collective in a more proactive way. We could see at least some relief in the logjam of our political situation and there is the possibility of compromise where none was possible before. I believe this will manifest as several members of congress crossing party lines to fix some of the problems that have been crippling our nation. While I don't believe anything is going to cure all our ills, at least not in a short time, this is a step in the right direction and it should help avoid the so-called fiscal cliff we are heading towards.

Our country has become more polarized than ever since the Civil War, even with Obama's rather impressive victory. Some states have elected large majorities from one or the other party, and several have become overwhelmingly Republican or Democrat with little regard for compromise. While I believe the Saturn-Pluto sextile will help us fix some national issues and at least find enough common ground to avoid a collapse, within these states I don't see any real chance for change. In some, such as Michigan, we are heading towards an all out war of ideology between the two parties: the Republicans, who are attempting to emasculate the unions, and the Democrats, who will not go down without a major fight. As I've said many times, until the completion of the Uranus-Pluto square we will not be able to achieve much more than a temporary truce.

Uranus will go direct this month. When any planet is in retrograde its energy is internalized and works on the inside, either personally or collectively. It is more difficult to express the power of that planet in the outside world. Now we will all be acting more Uranian in some ways, and wish to express our independence and individuality. But as with all Uranus transits it is important to keep an eye on boundaries and to avoid rash or impulsive actions. For a few weeks as we get used to this reversal we may be apt to jump at opportunities without bothering to examine the possible results. This is a time to experience as much of life as we can, and to express the personal freedom that we associate with this planet. But a little caution is called for or you may find yourself free as a bird – out on a lonely highway where freedom is all you wind up with. Uranus isn't really about being able to act out anyway we want to. Rather is it a matter of understanding our own chosen

limitations and deciding if they are still valid or need to be changed. If you do need a reevaluation of your boundaries you should try to make the changes in a conscious manner. Most difficulties we experience with Uranus transits have to do with not paying attention.

As I have been writing in this newsletter for some time now, we are heading towards April 2014 when there will be a grand cross in the sky involving Pluto opposite Jupiter, squaring Uranus opposite Mars. Mars will be conjunct America's Saturn, and Jupiter will be conjunct America's Sun. This will be an event in our history. It will represent a moment of crisis that will affect our financial markets and our political landscape. As we approach that date I will continue to examine the charts of nations, leaders, and other issues to try and determine exactly how this will manifest.

Have a wonderful holiday season and a healthy and prosperous New Year. And may we all find the joy and compassion within us that we are capable of. My sincerest wishes for peace and pleasure for all my readers and the world at large. Blessings to you all.

NEW MOON:

The New Moon falls on Thursday December 13th at 3:42 A.M. EST at 21 degrees Sagittarius 45 minutes, and it's a Void of Course New Moon. When the New Moon is VOC the lunar cycle will have the feeling we get under all VOC moons. There will be a sense of detachment and a lack of focus, at least until the Full Moon on December 28th. Don't expect things to work out the way you had planned. It is better to be open-minded and go with the flow, so to speak, and not have too many preconceived notions. This makes it difficult to make the sort of plans I usually recommend on a New Moon, and you must be flexible and keep your eyes open for the twists and turns you will find on your path for the next few weeks.

This is the most expansive and outgoing New Moon of the year. Sagittarius has little regard for boundaries as most of us define them, and this month will have much to do with stretching the rules and trying to expand our point of view. Travel is favored, as is any project or idea that can help with that expansion. New ideas, plans, and people will bring us a different perspective and we should embrace those as opportunities. Just keep in mind the VOC energy. Expect the unexpected and have a contingency plan ready in case things do not work out as you had hoped.

URANUS GOES DIRECT:

Also on Thursday December 13th at 7:02 A.M. EST this most erratic of planets turns around. Issues of personal freedom and change that have been restricted or difficult to implement will be easier now that Uranus has turned around. We have all been internalizing our need to express certain things and now it will be out in the open. We all need to be a little radical at times, at least within our own definition of what that means. This is a radical change of energy and one that can sometimes be disruptive, but its ultimate purpose is to free us from the bounds we create or allow the world to create for us. This will help those fools in Washington D.C. deal with the mess they have created. It will at least be easier to attempt to negotiate the changes necessary to keep us from the so-called fiscal cliff.

VENUS ENTERS SAGITTARIUS:

On Saturday December 15th at 11:38 P.M. EST Venus will join The Sun and Mercury in this expansive sign. This is a good month for travel. You will enjoy the trip as much as the destination and the expansiveness that often comes to us while on the road will be more charming and exciting. Love will be carefree and a bit frivolous. Use some caution when it comes to boundaries. It will be easy to overextend in financial and romantic endeavors. With Venus about to square foggy Neptune (see below) it may be particularly difficult to see any relationship in a clear light for the next few days. Money matters also require a strong hand to avoid overspending or buying things you really don't need or even want.

VENUS SQUARES NEPTUNE:

On Sunday December 16th at 1:25 P.M. EST this most unrealistic of aspects shows up. Use caution in all romantic endeavors and try not to fall head over heels for anyone new. You aren't seeing it in the clearest of light and in few days when reality does stick its head in (and it will) you may be very disappointed with what you see. This is also not a great day to go shopping. You will not have a handle on your money and it may disappear before your eyes. I also wouldn't suggest going to a casino today.

MERCURY OPPOSES JUPITER:

On Monday December 17th at 2:22 P.M. EST this opposition completes. This is a day when most of us will have a lot to say and little regard for the usual restrictions in verbal and intellectual pursuits. You can expect lively conversations and a lot of interaction. Travel is favored, but a little caution is called for. Jupiter is not very good with detail, and when it is afflicted to Mercury it is easy to miss the little things such as road signs, exits, etc. Arguments will abound, but most of them will be lighthearted. Still, it is easy to blow something out of proportion and make a mountain out of a molehill.

VENUS TRINES URANUS:

On Wednesday December 19th at 4:39 P.M. EST this trine will bring us the desire for unusual input and interactions. Romance will take a decidedly weird turn, but not in a bad or unusable way. It isn't a day to stick to the usual routine, especially in our romantic endeavors. Try to take in some different form of entertainment or art. And keep an open mind. You may be introduced to a new idea or activity that can lead to a rise in your consciousness. We will all be easily bored, which is why doing the same old things will feel very stale.

THE SUN ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Friday December 21st at 6:12 A.M. EST we enter the cardinal earth sign and winter officially begins. This Saturn ruled sign is in many ways the most stoic of the 12. It is interesting that the day Capricorn begins is the day the harshest of seasons also starts. Capricorn is interested in strengthening the foundation of things and building upon the existing structure, not beginning new things. Responsibilities and obligations will be forefront and it's a month of hard work and completing things that have already been started. Capricorn and its ruler Saturn are often associated with limitations and restrictions, and while that is the outward

manifestation it is really actually interested in growth and expansion, but in a controlled and structured way that can feel frustrating and repressive, especially in a society that expects instant gratification. But if you correctly handle our Saturn aspects, it will be better able to assimilate and solidify the expansion you may have experienced last month while the Sun was in Jupiter rules Sagittarius. And by transit, you must use your Saturn aspects to strengthen your foundation so that when Jupiter comes along you will be in a position to make the most of its unbridled opportunities. Otherwise there won't be solid ground for the growth you want. Use this month to shore up your position and to get your work completed.

THE SUN SEXTILES NEPTUNE:

On Saturday December 22nd at 1:49 A.M. EST this rather spiritual aspect comes along. This isn't a very powerful transit, and it will take place in the wee small hours of the morning. But it has an ethereal sense about it and it may be a good day for mediation or self-analysis. Anything charitable or helpful will be most rewarding to the giver.

VENUS OPPOSES JUPITER:

Also on Saturday December 22nd at 10:50 P.M. EST this wonderfully sociable aspect visits. This is a day of pleasure and peace. Try to find a place where you can enjoy yourself. Anything artistic or creative will be fulfilling. Romance is certainly possible, but only if it hits your chart just so. Also, there is a tendency when Jupiter is active to be somewhat unrealistic and overly expansive in love. It's easy to get carried away with things and take them where they should not go, so don't make more of something than it really is. Travel is usually quite enjoyable and if possible you should take a trip somewhere. The only real warning with this aspect is overindulgence, especially in rich or fatty foods, sugars, and alcohol. Hey, it's the holidays! What they heck.

MARS ENTERS AQUARIUS:

On Tuesday December 25th at 7:49 P.M. EST Mars enters this Uranus ruled sign. Christmas this year looks a bit edgy. Not only does Mars, the ruler of egos, enter this most erratic and unpredictable of signs, but the Sun squares Uranus today as well (see below). Caution in all things is called for. I would be careful while traveling and in personal interactions. Arguments will abound and things could get blown out of proportion.

THE SUN SQUARES URANUS:

Also on Tuesday December 25th at 8:32 P.M. EST this most explosive of aspects will complete. It should be an interesting holiday for many people. Try to curb your temper and feelings of self-righteousness. Don't take offense; it's not just you that's acting that way. Many people will be irritable and easily angered. Compromise is a difficult, and it might just be best to walk away from any uncomfortable situation. You won't settle anything today, and with all this ego energy being emitted you could easily start an argument.

SATURN SEXTILES PLUTO:

On Wednesday December 26th at 7:48 P.M. EST these two tough planets enter a positive aspect. I look at

this as a temporary truce between two powerful enemies. Saturn is currently in Pluto-ruled Scorpio, while Pluto is in Saturn-ruled Capricorn. We call that a mutual receptivity and it shows that they are working more in tandem than usual. This truly is an opportunity to find compromise where there usually isn't any. Can everyone say: Washington D.C.? In fact, as I said in the author's notes above, this is a real chance to temporarily resolve some of the conflict that has crippled our society for so long. This potentially balancing aspect is one of the reasons I believed Obama would be reelected.

FULL MOON:

This month's lunar peak occurs on Friday December 28th at 5:21 A.M. EST at 07 degrees Cancer 06 minutes. Any Full Moon in Cancer should be respected for the degree of emotionalism it is capable of creating. If this Full Moon hits a sensitive point in your chart you can expect some reaction. Be careful of your digestion, your personal relationships, and of being swallowed up by the past. At about this time of year we always have this Cancer Full Moon, and when it's so close to New Year's I would assume some issues involving family, a significant other, or just your own emotional makeup may be blown out of proportion. Sometimes a Full Moon will bring things to the surface that have been ignored for too long forcing us to look at them in the light. Watch what you eat and drink. Cancer rules the stomach and first part of food assimilation and indigestion is certainly possible. But it also rules the assimilation of our feelings and that may be more difficult to structure and control.

THE SUN CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Sunday December 30th at 8:37 A.M. EST this very powerful aspect completes. Those of you who have planets at about 9 degrees cardinal will feel this intensely. Don't push too hard or the world will push back. There will be intensity about many things and some people will not be easy to get along with. Obsessive compulsive behavior is very common when the Sun and Pluto are in contact, so be careful not to take things too deep a place. It will be difficult to let go of anything that is bothering you, but take it in stride and either find your sense of humor or walk away from the situation. This only lasts a day so it's easy to sidestep most problems. Often this conjunct coincides with the breakdown of things including relationships, or even mechanical devices. Any place there is decay will become obvious now.

THE SUN SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Sunday December 30th at 12:45 P.M. EST this sextile completes. As I wrote above, Saturn and Pluto are in sextile to each other so the quicker moving planets will aspect them both within a short period of time. This is a useful and positive aspect that will focus your attention on reality and responsibilities. But because it is a positive sextile you can use this energy more proactively and compartmentalize what is most important. Complete what you have started when Saturn is active. Don't over-expand or take on too many obligations. Just push thing forward at a comfortable pace. If you have needed to discuss something important this may be a good day to put your thoughts in order. Tomorrow when Mercury enters Capricorn you will have a strong desire to get all your ducks in a row, and you will be more sincere and honest about things.

MERCURY ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Monday December 31st at 9:03 A.M. EST the winged god enters this Saturn ruled sign. For the next few weeks we will all be more reality based and seek the truth and stability in all things. This is a time for serious thoughts and communications. You won't be that interested in frivolous or superficial conversations and will want to know the reason behind someone's choices. Get your work done this month. After having Mercury in playful Sagittarius it may be necessary to catch up on things and make up for lost time. Be careful of pessimistic or negative thoughts from within you or from someone else. If you are prone to depression you may feel this more strongly.

MARS SEXTILES URANUS:

Also on Monday December 31st at 9:32 P.M. EST this high energy aspect comes along. This sextile combines the ego and rage of Mars with the unpredictability and erratic nature of Uranus. But this is a positive sextile and once again you should be better able to use this transit to your advantage. This gives us the ability to be proactive about change and to shake up the status quo without doing too much damage to the foundation. All Mars-Uranus aspects come with a word of warning, even the positive sextile or trine. But it is so much easier to keep a lid on things when they are in tandem such as now. Watch your ego and do not allow it too much control. This is not a day to sit around in a cubicle in front of a computer. You must allow yourself some freedom of movement and explore the world. You'll be surprised at what you discover.

MERCURY SQUARES URANUS:

On January 3rd at 11:30 A.M. EST this feisty and possibly dangerous aspect completes. Be careful in all your communications. Either you or the other person may be looking for a fight. Nervous energy will abound and if this square sets off your chart you could have a bout of insomnia, or just feel too nervous and irritable to settle down. Caution is most definitely called for, especially while traveling. Thoughts and ideas will come at an accelerated pace and some people may find it quite difficult to keep up. Stay busy, but pay attention to what you are doing. Distractions are very common and you could make a mistake or even have an accident.

MERCURY CONJUNCTS PLUTO:

On Sunday January 6th 11:43 A.M. EST this conjunct hits. This will be a day of intense interaction with others. Be careful in your communications. It will be easy to overreact and you could easily push someone away without meaning to. It will be very difficult to let go of things and that compulsiveness I discussed a few days ago when the Sun and Pluto were conjunct will be felt again. If you are feeling angry or irritable you must admit it to yourself or you will find this energy seeping out of you in the most inappropriate ways. Arguments are certainly possible, and you should try to keep an even keel. If you feel out of control or so obsessive about a single idea or situation that it's upsetting you, you should probably just let it go until tomorrow. There isn't that much you can do about it anyway. Use this conjunct to delve into any subject that requires your attention, but don't become too obsessed. That would be counter-productive. This is a good day for self-examination and analysis.

MERCURY SEXTILES SATURN:

Also on Sunday January 6th at 6:44 P.M. EST the 2nd half of the Pluto-Saturn aspect gets set off my Mercury. By this time of day we will be more concerned about getting our tasks done. The inner self-examination is done and we will wish to work more with the outside world. This is an excellent time to handle any job that requires attention to details and a steady eye. Conversations will be real and direct, but lack any real oomph. If you need to clear the air about something this isn't a bad day to do it, but you won't have a lot of compassion or compromise, Even though this is a sextile it is still Saturn's influence, which wants accomplishments and reality at all cost.

MARS SQUARES SATURN:

On Monday January 7th at 2:33 P.M. EST this very frustrating aspect visits us. Mars is the ego and it doesn't like to be restricted. Of course, that's exactly what Saturn does and when they are in conflict such as now we all feel our egos a little squashed. If you can focus this energy you will be able to direct that Mars power where you want it and get a lot of hard work done. You will have staying power in any task, but if the irritability this can produce becomes overwhelming you probably won't be able to get the excellent work done that you had hoped for. I would just work through this aspect and allow yourself periods of rest or perhaps a long walk at lunchtime. You can not stay bottled up for too long with Saturn, but if you learn to handle this square you will be surprised at what you can accomplish.

VENUS ENTERS CAPRICORN:

On Tuesday January 8th at 11:11 P.M. EST the planet of love and money (funny how those two things are ruled by the same planet) enters stoic Saturn-ruled Capricorn. We will all tend to be a little more conservative in those two areas of our lives. This is a good month for making a budget, investing in long-term things, and for viewing our relationships in an honest and even distant way. Venus and Saturn combinations are difficult and limiting, and sometimes they can produce feelings of loneliness, but only if this falls just so in your chart. Still you will feel the society at large taking a step backwards from intimacy and withdrawing inward. Of course if you live in New York City that becomes redundant.

DARK OF THE MOON:

The next New Moon falls on Friday January 11th at 2:44 P.M. EST at 21 degree Capricorn 46 minutes. The day or two leading up to it will be a particularly low energy period. If you tend to be emotional this may be a very trying time each month. I have found that people with prominent moons or a Cancer Sun, Moon or ascendant respond to the cycles of the moon more intensely than others. Spend this time finishing up anything that is incomplete, don't try to initiate new projects on a waning moon, it just won't work out. Once the New Moon hits you begin new projects or attempt a new approach to an existing problem. If you have been living in a situation or involved in a relationship that is intolerable or has outlived its usefulness this would be the proper time to move on with your life. If you have been working on a project that is almost complete but you seem to lack the energy for the finality, you must push during these low energy days to end the matter once and for all. If you don't, when the New Moon arrives it will bring this "dead"

energy along with it and conflict with the newer force being presented. Each month we are offered a chance to clean house, so to speak.

Note: All aspects are most powerful and effective as they apply. Once the transit has completed, its force is lessened. The further it separates the weaker it becomes.

For information regarding personal readings please contact me at: mitchastro@aol.com.

Below is a list of times this month when the Moon is Void of Course and neither important decisions nor purchases should be made during these periods. The Void of Course Moon is a time when we should try to center ourselves and deal with spiritual matters not materialistic ones. Any decisions made on the VC Moon will not turn out the way we had expected.

The Moon is Void of Course from the time it makes its last major aspect in a sign until it enters the next sign. For example, if the Moon squares Mars at 27 degrees Aries and then has no more aspects until it enters Taurus it will be Void of Course for three degrees or about 6 hours. The aspects used are the conjunction, sextile, square, trine, and opposition. All times are Eastern:

December 13th 3:42 A.M. – 4:43 P.M.

December 15th 4:15 P.M. – 4:53 P.M.

December 17th 1:11 P.M. – 7:48 P.M.

December 20th 12:19 A.M. – 2:43 A.M.

December 22nd 7:57 A.M. – 1:25 P.M.

December 25th 12:58 A.M. – 2:13 A.M.

December 27th 1:50 A.M. – 3:06 P.M.

December 28th 9:43 A.M. – December 30th 2:45 A.M. *** Moon is void 2 days

December 31st 4:52 P.M. – January 1st 12:35 P.M. *** Moon is void all day

January 3rd 7:15 A.M. – 8:11 P.M. *** Moon is void for a day

January 5th 6:13 P.M. – January 6th 1:09 .A.M.

January 7th 6:31 A.M. – January 8th 3:28 A.M. *** Moon is void 24 hours

January 8th 9:28 P.M. – January 10th 3:54 A.M. *** Moon is void 1½ days



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